

From: Linda [mailto:lbradbrook@gualala.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 4:10 PM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Public Comments

To the Marine Life Protections Act study group

I was just apprised of the extent and potential impact this Marine life protection act could have on this area. I am in the lodging industry in the Gualala area. One of the main stay's of our counties economy is tourism that centers on the ocean and fishing. Taking away our ability to attract abalone divers and fishermen to our area could devastate us economically. Lodging would not be the only business to be affected. Restaurants, stores, shops and country family life in general would be affected.

We see the family fishermen who bring their children up to learn how to cast and fish off the ocean bluffs. I don't see these fishermen taking home massive amounts of fish. I see it as a way of passing on an age old tradition and skill that seems to be going the way of many lost arts in today's modern world. Our local children have very few modern entertainment venues like the cities have. That is a plus and a drawback. The plus is they learn and do many nature centered activities like fishing, surfing, mushroooming. The drawback is they get bored with fewer things to do and start hanging out at the beaches and drinking. If you take away their ability to fish learning hands on responsible sustainability in nature, you need to replace it with something else positive. I don't know of anything better than the natural age old skills passed on from father and mother to child. What will you replace it with? On top of tourism and family fishing needs many of our local families make their living from the sea by commercial fishing, gathering edible seaweed, fishing guides, sea urchin, etc?

Many of our truisms in life are based around fishing themes. "Give a man food you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish you feed him for life."

I don't see local people and the typical tourists abusing our fishing, abalone limits. Yes, we hear about a few people who get caught abusing our laws. Those same people will continue to break laws no matter what Act, Law, or Initiative is currently law. By and large most people abide by just and good laws. I feel all of these Marine sanctuaries shutting off the ocean beaches, bluffs, and ocean to sports/ (family) fishing, will bring about a lot of people choosing to deliberately break the laws in a backlash to an unjust Initiative. This could set up a precedence that local game and wildlife officials will find challenging to control. Possibly effecting and eroding even further the overall quality and controls that we now experience.

In trying to understand the reason for this "Marine Life Protection Act Initiative" I talked to a friend who is politically active, a member of the Sierra Club, and many other save the "special interest" groups. Her simplistic explanation was that

it originally started with many good intentions and goals. She said, once all of the bureaucratic politicians got thru adding in their special interest goals, changing, tweaking and twisting it, the final outcome was not recognizable as to what the original intent was.

I understand this bill was passed back in 1999 and now it has to be implemented by law soon. Your group has the auspicious job of making it palliative for the local people and the bureaucrats who crammed this down our throats. Please keep in mind you hold the future of our communities and the simple uncomplicated life we choose to live in your hands.

If we can't survive because you have destroyed our lively hoods, families and the ancient way of life we aspire to, we will have to start looking for other survival options. That may be moving and joining the rat race in the cities or bringing big industries and the cities to our pristine coast lines for our families to remain here. Many of our local families go back three and four generations. In the case of our Indian friends, they go back thousands of years. You hold in your hands the future of the simplistic life of the Northern California coastline. Please, we do not want to become the Roanoke of the 21 century.

Thank you,

Linda Bradbrook

Co Owner of the Gualala Country Inn and mother of three children who were raised and remain living on this coastline as adults. Thru their father they are fourth generation Northern Californians.

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